

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

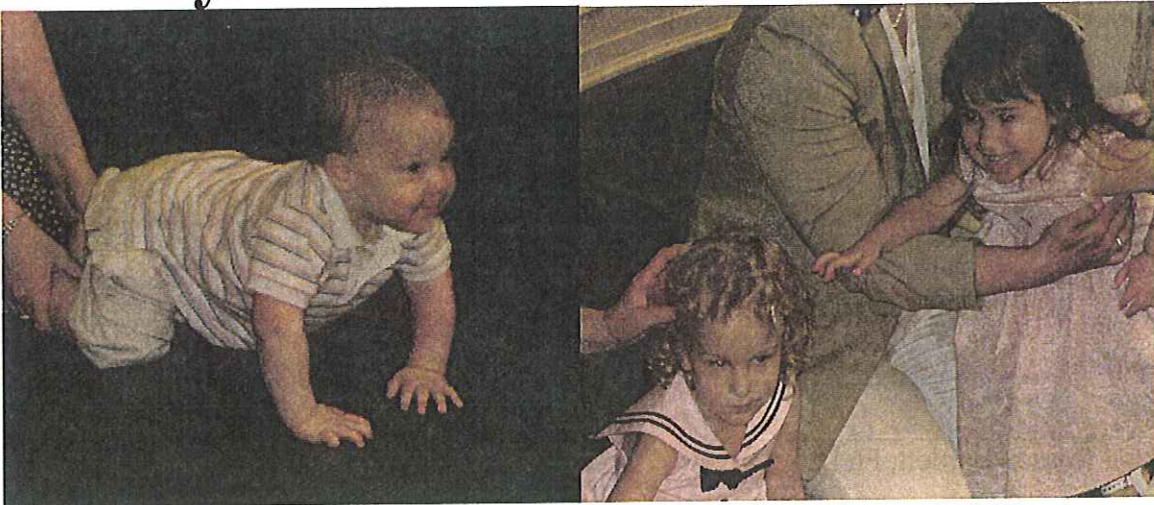
The State of Stem Cell Research:
Fact or Fiction??

*Rep. Lois Capps: "Each year thousands of embryos, no bigger than the head of a pin, are created in the process of in vitro fertilization... A small percentage of these embryos are implanted and will, hopefully, grow into children. The rest will be frozen or discarded. They will not be used to create life. **They will never become children.** They will be lost without purpose."*

July 19, 2006, CR H5439

Answer: FICTION!

Reality...



Above are pictures of just a few precious and adorable "snowflake babies" who came to Capitol Hill last year to educate members of Congress regarding embryo adoption. These children represent hundreds of snowflake babies, nicknamed this because they started life as a frozen embryo stored in an in-vitro fertilization clinic. Frozen embryos who were not carelessly discarded, but rather lovingly donated to families who were struggling to build their own family.

As of 2006, 110 children have been born through the Nightlight Christian Adoption agency's *Snowflake Baby* program. In addition, the National Embryo Donation Center at Knoxville's Baptist Hospital is a non-profit organization that assists both embryo donors and recipients, and as of July 2006 their efforts have resulted in 41 babies being born or awaiting birth.

According to a 2003 RAND study, over 88% of the frozen embryos stored in this country are designated for future family building by their donor parents. This leaves nearly 12% of these 400,000 frozen embryos that could be donated for adoption so that these embryos may realize the reality of life. It is important that we do not lose sight of that fact in this debate: frozen embryos are human beings; they are just in the first stage of development.

Another fact that deserves highlighting is that the private sector already funds embryonic stem cell research on frozen embryos from IVF clinics. Please don't be fooled by the rhetoric. The real question Congress will debate on the floor of the House this week is whether **tax-payer dollars** should be used to extract embryonic stem cells from frozen human embryos and thus destroying them. Since a 2006 poll of the American public shows that a majority of individuals prefer their tax dollars spent on stem cell research that does not harm a human embryo; the answer is a resounding no.

The reality is that the federal government can and should pursue cutting edge, life-saving research that observes a moral and ethical line. There are a multitude of methods that researchers are pursuing to extract pluripotent cells, cells that just like embryonic stem cells can specialize into any type of cell, but do not require the harming or destroying of a human embryo. It is this type of research that is worthy of the taxpayer dollar because it too holds the promise of new treatments and cures for debilitating diseases while acknowledging the sanctity of human life.

Therefore, please join us in voting no on H.R. 3 and asking the Democratic leadership to allow a full and open debate on using tax-payer dollars to pursue alternative methods to stem cell research.

Sincerely,



Rep. Roscoe Bartlett, Ph.D.



Rep. Phil Gingrey, M.D.